



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Frequently asked questions from General Contractors

1. We found abandoned asbestos-cement pipe and would like to know if we can crush it and backfill it or pump grout into the buried lines?

The crushing of asbestos-cement pipe, Category II nonfriable ACM, would cause the material to become regulated ACM (RACM) and would be subject to sections 61.145 and 61.150. The backfilling and burial of crushed A/C pipe in place would cause these locations to be considered active disposal sites and subject to section 61.154. If no additional asbestos waste is buried at that location within a year, the site would become an inactive site subject to 61.151(e) and 61.154(h). If the pipe is not crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder, it would not be subject to the NESHAP. Pumping grout into the buried lines would not cause the pipe to become RACM.

2. Who can remove an asbestos roof?

If a contractor will be cutting, abrading, sanding or grinding 5850 square feet or more of roofing material it needs to be done by a licensed asbestos contractor.

3. Who can remove asbestos containing material (ACM) from a single-family residence?

Non-friable asbestos containing material can be removed from a single-family residence by a licensed asbestos contractor, a non-licensed contractor, or the homeowner. If the ACM will be made friable or is already friable (materials that can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure) then it should be removed by a licensed asbestos contractor.

A list of licensed asbestos contractors in Maryland can be found at the Maryland Department of the Environment website. Here is the link <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Air/Asbestos/Documents/AsbestosLicenseContractorList10-19-10.pdf>

4. Where can I take asbestos containing material after it has been removed?

You can dispose of non-friable ACM at landfills that accept non-friable waste. Homeowners and/or their certified asbestos contractors must dispose of waste asbestos materials properly. Disposal requirements for commercial contractors also apply to homeowners, whether they do the work themselves or have a contractor do it. Landfill operators are required to handle asbestos wastes separately from other wastes, so it is important to contact them prior to disposal. Non-friable asbestos is accepted for disposal by many landfills as long as the landfill operator is contacted for approval prior to disposal. Some landfills choose not to accept any asbestos-containing materials for disposal.

5. When should the homeowner notify about a demolition of a house?

If the house was used for a commercial purpose, has more than four apartment units, the demolition includes two homes, the home is being demolished for a commercial building or for a highway/road construction.

6. What precautions should a homeowner take when removing their asbestos siding and/or tile?

Use wet methods and wear PPE like a respirator and protective disposable clothing.

Maryland Department of the Environment
Please call 410-537-3200 with questions or comments

